

Remarks

Applicants have added new claims 49 to 57 which more clearly define the subject matter of the invention and properly fall within the subject matter of the elected group I claims.

In response to the Restriction Requirement dated September 26, 2006, Applicants elect **Group I** and claims drawn to a method of detecting rheumatoid arthritis.

The restriction requirement states that a further election is required if Group I claims are elected of a single combination of "one or more" markers from Table 3M for detection in the claimed methods.

Applicant has elected the gene Sp1 transcriptional activation, subunit 6 (CRSP6). Claims 49-57 are pending. Support is found through the specification and in the originally filed claims. In particular, support the gene Sp1 transcriptional activation, subunit 6 (CRSP6) is noted in Table 3M under the RNA accession number NM_004268 with a p value of 0.023944996 and is described in Figure 20, Example 22. No new matter has been added.

A petition for extension of time is attached. However, should any fees be required to ensure consideration of this response, the Commissioner is authorized to charge Deposit Account 04-1105, Reference No. 204231/2055H.

Respectfully submitted,

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